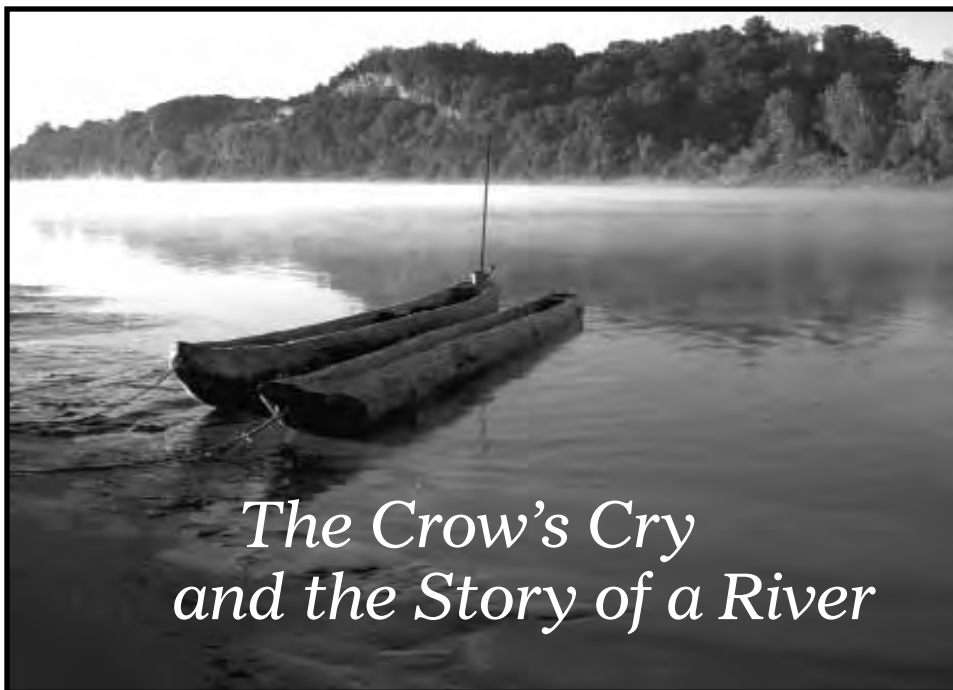


# Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • July/August 2013



## The Crow's Cry and the Story of a River

**T**he rasping cry of a crow slices through morning fog. To me that only means one thing. It is a good day to canoe. I don't know exactly why, but when the crow calls and the fog rolls in, I am restless and yearn to launch my old canoe into a river. But I live near Kansas City. How often I have envied those who live in southern Missouri along beautiful Ozark streams.

Then one day, while driving over the Missouri River near LaBenite Park on Missouri 291, a new idea began to formulate in my mind. What would it be like to launch my canoe into the current of the mighty Missouri River? My husband deemed me crazy and said, "you'll never catch me on that river."

Many people think about the Missouri River this way. Many have forgotten that it is indeed a wild place to explore, daydream and learn. We think of it more as just a big ditch that dissects the metropolitan area, complete with

dangerous whirlpools and undercurrents, if we choose to think of it any way at all. This river is indeed an aging star, but one with much life and many stories left. A rich, intriguing history beckons those who float the Big Muddy.

A canoeist on this river travels back through eons of time, all the way back to the ice ages. Huge ice sheets once advanced across north Missouri. Glacial loess soils in Jackson, Clay and Platte

counties mark the advance into the Kansas City area. Water from melting ice carved a spillway that became the Missouri River valley as the glaciers

melted and retreated.

The Missouri River is the longest river in the United States, lazily meandering 2,540 miles from the river's sources in Montana to its confluence with the Mississippi River just north of St. Louis. Missouri River water flows into the Mississippi at an average rate of 76,300 cubic feet per second!

Big Muddy, as the river is sometimes called, has always been an important natural resource. For Native Americans and pioneers, the river provided wildlife and fish for food, fresh water and transportation.

In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson named Meriwether Lewis to lead the "Voyage of Discovery," which was charged with exploring the vast wilderness of the Missouri River to its source. Jefferson hoped the river would connect with the Columbia River to allow access to the Pacific Ocean. He sought knowledge about the customs and culture of the Native Americans, and the president wanted a better understanding of the wildlife and natural resources in the American West. As Lewis and Clark traveled through Missouri, they were clearly impressed with the land's natural beauty.

On July 4, 1804, Clark wrote: "We camped in the plain. One of the most beautiful plains I ever saw, open and beautifully diversified with hills and valleys all presenting them to the river, covered with grass and a few scattering trees, a handsome creek meandering through..."

The entry was written not far from what is today the MDC Little Bean Marsh Conservation Area, a wetland in an oxbow of the river. Today, rich soils in Missouri River valley is among the most

*Continued on back page...*

### Get out and explore!

Here's your chance to float the Mighty Missouri River by canoe or motor boat.

➤ *Missouri River by Canoe Workshop*  
Aug. 27 & Sept. 15

➤ *Mighty Mo by Motor Boat* Aug. 20

See pages 7 and 8 for all the details!

# Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/280](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280)



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

## **NATURE CENTER HOURS:**

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

## **AREA AND TRAILS:**

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day, day after

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

## **TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:**

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## **What's for Dinner?**

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes are fed every other Friday (July 12 & 26 and Aug. 9 & 23).

## **Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Ladybug?**

July 6 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

*No registration required* (ages 5+)

Being outside can put you face to face with some of your least favorite creatures, but sometimes all it takes to overcome your fears is a little knowledge. Come in and we'll learn about some of the "scary" things in nature and calm your fears.

## **Discover Nature: Family Fishing**

July 13 • Saturday • 9–11 AM

*Registration required* (families)

Summer is a great time to take your family fishing! We will teach some fishing basics, provide equipment and worms and then let you and your family try your luck. Kids who attend will be entered in a drawing for a new fishing pole and tackle box at the end of the summer. Participants ages 16-64 must have a valid fishing permit.

## **Cooking Wild: Catfish**

July 13 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

*Registration required* (adults)

Celebrate summer by cooking one of our most tasty and bountiful fish, the catfish! Catfish are found nearly everywhere in Missouri. They can grow large and are fun to catch. Join us as we learn how to catch, clean and cook these whiskered fish.

## **The Wild Ones:**

### **Heading to the Farm**

July 16 • Tuesday • 8:30–11 AM

*Registration required* (adults)

To your health! You will love getting to know purslane, a nutritious wild plant, during a tour of a Missouri River bottom garden. It is easy to include this interesting little native in your own garden and in your diet. Purslane is a rich source of omega-3 fatty acids!

## **Mud Cat, Fish Cat, Yellow Cat, Lady Cat: It's all about Catfish!**

July 17 • Wednesday • 6:30–7:30 PM

*No registration required* (all ages)

Catfish are the most sought after species of fish in Missouri. Their behavior and life history are fascinating. Covering identification, habitat, movement, spawning and management; this presentation by resource scientist Kevin Sullivan, will unveil many of the surprising and often unknown facts about catfish.

## **Hummingbirds**

July 20 • Saturday • 2–3 PM

*Registration required* (adults & families with children) Come out and meet summer's most fantastic aerial gymnasts up close and personal. Introducing the ever beguiling, ever bejeweled hummingbird! We will also learn how to invite these amazing little birds to our own backyards.

## **Discover Nature: Family Canoeing**

July 24 • Wednesday • 6–8 PM

*Registration required*

(families with children ages 7+)

Observing nature from a canoe can be a breath-taking and exhilarating experience. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned pro we will review basic techniques so that you may embark on your own canoeing experience that will be an adventure your family will remember for years to come. We will meet at Prairie Hollow Lake at James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area.

## **Reptile Hike**

July 27 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

*No registration required* (ages 5+)

Summer is here! With it comes the hot sun beating down warming the pavement and rocks nicely for our cold blooded wildlife. We'll set out to see what kind of reptiles we can spot soaking up the warm rays of the sun.

## **Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales**

July 27 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

*Walk-in* (ages 2+)

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

*You might meet a fence lizard on the Burr Oak Woods reptile hike on Saturday, July 27.*





# Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/280](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280)



## Dragons and Nymphs

August 3 • Saturday • 10:30–11:30 AM

*Registration required beginning July 1*

(families) Roll up your sleeves and pant legs as we head to the pond to capture young dragonfly nymphs hiding just under the water surface. Then we'll use nets to observe the dragons up-close. Join us for a hands-on experience with this group of magical winged insects.

## Discover Nature: Family Fishing

August 10 • Saturday • 9–11 AM

*Registration required (families)*

Summer is a great time to take your family fishing! We will teach some fishing basics, provide equipment and worms and then let you and your family try your luck. Kids who attend will be entered in a drawing for a new fishing pole and tackle box at the end of the summer. Participants ages 16–64 must have a valid fishing permit.

## Missouri Caves

August 10 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

*Registration required (all ages)*

Did you know there are over 5,000 caves in Missouri? Caves are an amazing natural feature and an important habitat for many animals. Join us as we explore the underground world and find out how caves are made. We will then crawl into the indoor portable "cave" to find out about the critters that live there.

## Missouri River by Canoe Workshop

August 27 • Tuesday & September 15 • Sunday

*Registration required (Adults only)*

See back page for all the details!

## Native Garden Stepping Stone Art

August 17 • Saturday • 12:30–2 PM

*Registration required (adults & families with children ages 5+)*

Native plants are wonderful, but sometimes can be less accessible than we like. Learn this fun process and take home your own stone to get started with an easy to maintain walkway through your native garden! Bring a friend or family member and create a lasting memory together.

## The Wild Ones:

### Late Season Favorites

August 20 • Tuesday • 9–11 AM

*Registration required (adults)*

There are many species of edible wild plants that are well adapted to the dog days of summer. Let's discover what is available in August and learn how to prepare these nutritious plants in a way that will delight even the most discerning palate.

## Pallid Sturgeon – Dinosaur Fish

August 21 • Wednesday • 6:30–7:30 PM

*No registration required (ages 15+)*

Learn about the pallid sturgeon and its incredible journey from a path of extinction to increasing abundance in Missouri's large rivers from Missouri Conservation Department Resource Science Supervisor Dave Herzog. In 1992, pallid sturgeons were reared for the first time in captivity at Missouri's Blind Pony Hatchery. Since then, state and federal hatcheries have produced sturgeons for stocking into rivers where the fish once thrived. Research and management continue to improve our understanding of this endangered fish. Like the bald eagle, the pallid sturgeon is anticipated to be yet another conservation success story.



## Creek Cruisin' for Families

August 24 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

*Registration required*

(families with children ages 5+)

Nothing beats a summer day spent splashing, searching and venturing through a nearby creek. You and your family will be able to share new outdoor memories together while exploring an amazing aquatic habitat!

## Planted Paper

August 31 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

*Registration required (all ages)*

Many of our native plants are producing seed by late summer. Join us to make a recycled paper decoration with native seeds that can be enjoyed this season and planted in your garden next spring!

## Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

August 31 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

*Walk-in (ages 2+)*

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

➤ *Research and management continue to improve our understanding of the endangered pallid sturgeon.*

# Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/282](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/282)



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

## HOURS:

### May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

### September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday

and all state holidays.

**FACILITIES AND FEES:** Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round per person
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## Explore Bowhunting

July 8–11 • Monday–Thursday • 8–11:30 AM  
*Registration required* (ages 10+)

Participants must attend all four sessions to complete the program. Have a youth interested in bowhunting but don't know where to start? The Archery Trade Association's Explore Bowhunting program provides students an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to become active participants in the outdoors and conservation through a safe introduction to bowhunting. All equipment will be provided.

## Introduction to Double Trap

July 11 • Thursday • 6–9 PM

*Walk-in* (ages 16+) Open to the public... *free shooting.* This is another shooting sport event geared towards those shooters who love shooting trap and would like a challenge. Instruction will be on proper stance, choke selection and swing through. Special class requirements: only double barreled and semi-automatic shotguns.

## Introduction to Skeet Shooting

July 13 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport.

## Women's Firearm Safety Phase–I

July 20 • Saturday • 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (women ages 18+)

Thinking about introducing a firearm into your home? This course is designed specifically for women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed include introducing a firearm into the home, basic marksmanship and laws regarding ownership of firearms.

## Pistol Shooting Fundamentals

August 3 • Saturday • 5:30–9 PM

*Registration required* (adults)

Looking to expand your knowledge and abilities on the pistol range? In this course, learn to shoot strong hand and weak hand, work on loading and reloading your pistol and learn techniques to improve your overall marksmanship. This is a course geared towards those who love to shoot pistols.

## NRA Basic Muzzleloading Rifle

August 7–9 • Wednesday–Friday • 6–10 PM

*Registration required* (ages 15+)

Participants must attend all three sessions to complete the program. With the growing enthusiasm in muzzleloading, this class is a great way to get a head start in primitive shooting. This is an NRA course which encompasses the complete aspect in shooting muzzleloading rifles.

## Introduction to Wobbler

August 9 • Friday • 6–9 PM

*Walk-in* (ages 16+)

Opened to everyone and it is free. This is a great way to tune up for the upcoming upland bird season. Different than trap, wobbler has a more variable target flight path than in standard trap shooting because the trap machine oscillates up and down as well as side to side. Training will be on proper stance, choke selection and swing through.

## NRA Basic Shotgun–First Step

August 16 • Friday • 5–8:30 PM

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

NRA First Step program is well known as a great place to learn about your shotgun. The class is taught by NRA instructors with NRA materials. Special requirement for the class: Remington 870 12 gauge shotguns only. No firearms will be provided.

## Summer shooting prepares for fall sports

**A**re you ready for the upcoming waterfowl or upland bird season? With September just around the corner, July and August is a great time to break out the shotgun and head to the range.

Lake City is offering special shooting



activities this summer such as double trap and wobbler. These shooting games are fun and provide a real challenge to the seasoned waterfowl or upland bird hunter. Both events will be held in the

evening after normal range operating hours, free of charge. These special shooting events are open to the public and are assured to be fun for all participants.

So tell a friend or bring a family member to the Introduction of Double Trap 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, and Introduction to Wobbler 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 9. We look forward to seeing you at the range.

—Steve Elliott, Lake City Range Supervisor



# Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/283](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/283)

## Attention Bowhunters

**T**ime is running out for you to get registered in the Missouri Bow Hunter Education Classes. These are the classes you will need to have completed to apply for many of the urban managed hunts on public park land in the Kansas City metro area. This certification also meets the standards of most other states as well.



Students will learn what it means to be a responsible and ethical hunter. They will participate in hands-on activities to assist in skill building. They will learn about archery equipment, tree stand safety,

wildlife conservation and more. All in all, it's a good class that all responsible bow hunters should take. But don't wait till it's too late. To find a class and get enrolled, log on to [www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri](http://www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri).

## Youth Hunter Education Day Camp

July 8–12 · Monday–Friday · 9 AM–3 PM  
*Registration required (ages 11–15)*

This annual event at Parma Woods Range is an extended version of our traditional Hunter Education Class. Youth that participate in this year's day camp will get the opportunity to receive valuable hands on experience in the safe handling and shooting of rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading rifles and archery equipment. Other skills incorporated in this year's camp will include survival skills, scouting for game, tracking game, map & compass navigation and more. Students should plan to attend all 5 sessions. Youths that successfully pass the exam at the conclusion of the class will receive their Hunter Education Certification.

## Rifle Shooting for the Hunter

July 15–19 · Monday–Friday · 6–8 PM  
*Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)*

Misses sometimes happen to all hunters. There are lessons that can be learned from each to try to keep them from being repeated. This class is designed for hunters that have successfully completed a Hunter Education course and would like to learn better ways to practice and shoot. Skills covered will include shooting fundamentals, sighting-in procedures, shoot/don't shoot scenarios, shot placement and plenty of shooting from the various positions one might find in the field. Attendees should plan to attend all 5 sessions.

## Tracking Wounded Game

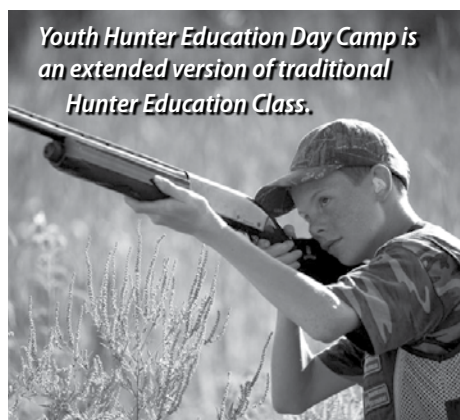
August 13 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM  
*Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)*

The ability to track down and recover wounded game is a learned skill and also one that all responsible hunters should learn. Join our experienced trackers for some simple tips and techniques that will improve your ability to recover wounded game.

## Scouting for Deer

August 14 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM  
*Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)*

Like most other animals, deer often follow predictable patterns in their daily activities. Successful hunters understand the important role that scouting plays in their success. Attend this workshop as we explore deer behavior and learn the skills needed to consistently find deer.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol range, shotgun patterning range, and archery range.

## HOURS:

**May 1–September 30**

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

**October 1–April 30**

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

## FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## Shotgun Patterning Workshop

August 17 · Saturday · 4–8 PM

*Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)*

Knowing how your firearm performs is an important element in responsible hunting. Though it is common for deer hunters to sight-in and check their equipment, it is far less common for upland game and waterfowl hunters to do the same. Join us for an eye-opening evening dedicated to the topic. For maximum benefit from the class participants should bring their own shotguns, choke tubes and ammo.

# Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • [mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter](http://mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter)



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

## **HOURS:**

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM  
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM  
Closed all state holidays.

## **TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:**

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

## **Eco-Game Night**

July 2 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

*No registration required* (all ages)

Join us for a night of fun with family and friends discovering nature through interactive eco-friendly games. Play Eco-based board games, picture matching and Nature Pictionary. Create your own checker game out of recycled material to take home for more evenings of fun and games.

## **Show Me Herps**

July 6 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Discover the amazing reptiles and amphibians that call Missouri home. There will be opportunities to see live animals up close, participate in fun hands on activities, and learn how conservation is critical to their survival. Slither, hop or crawl your way down to Discovery Center for a day of herpetology fun.

## **Nature Nuts Storytime**

July 6 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

July 20 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

*No registration required*

(ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

## **Contemporary Art and the Politics of Environmental Engagement**

July 16 · Tuesday · 7–8 PM

*No registration required*

(adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Barbara O'Brien, executive director of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art,



*Barbara O'Brien*

will talk about select artists—including photographer Laura McPhee—who use or advocate for environmental issues in their artwork. She will focus on McPhee's works in the Kemper

Museum's exhibition *Laura McPhee: River of No Return*, on view May 17–September 22.

## **Bugs Buggy!**

July 20 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Which is greater: the total weight of all the human beings on the planet Earth or the total weight of all the insects? Studies are finding that there are more than 200 million insects for each human on the planet! If this is correct, then the world holds 300 pounds of insects for every pound of humans. Some insects like butterflies are beautiful and others are just plain creepy. Join us for a day of buggy investigations as we explore the Discovery Center grounds and have fun with hands-on projects as we learn more about the world's most common species.

## **Sustainability Saturday!**

August 3 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Everything we need for our survival depends on our natural environment. At the same time, everything we do has an impact on our environment either directly or indirectly. How can we manage our daily lives to reduce our negative impacts? What options are available for us to maintain a good balance? Today you can talk to experts about sustainable choices we can make. Join us to learn just how easy it is to "live friendly" in our modern world.

## **Nature Nuts Storytime**

August 3 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

August 17 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

*No registration required*

(ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

## **Raptor Rockets**

August 6 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Owls, hawks and eagles are an example of the raptors or birds of prey that call Missouri home. We'll create a raptor of our own using items from home, then find out whose raptor soars the highest using our rocket launcher. Please bring one empty, 2-liter soda bottle with all labels removed for each participant.

## **Creepy but Cool**

### **Photo Exhibit Opening Reception**

August 6 · Tuesday · 5:30–7 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages) Missouri is home to many plants and animals that are creepy, but still fascinate us. The Osage Trail Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists have taken their cameras to the forests, fields and backyards of Missouri to showcase the unloved, unwanted and under appreciated plants and animals that call Missouri home. The exhibit will be on display through October, but you can meet some of the photographers and learn more about the photos at the opening reception.

# Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • [mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter](http://mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter)

## **Hovering Hummingbirds**

August 17 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Are you ready for the late summer feeding frenzy of ruby-throated hummingbirds? In late summer, their activity increases as hummingbirds begin to move south. To feed them, all you need is sugar water and items from the recycling bin. Learn more about these hovering harbingers and make functional feeders out of repurposed plastic. All materials will be provided, simply bring your enthusiasm for hummers!

## **Mighty MO By Boat**

August 20 · Tuesday · 5:30–8 PM

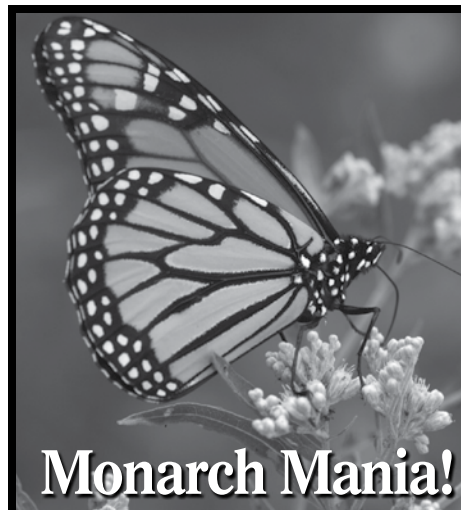
*Registration required* (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Step aboard the MDC river pontoon for an evening of exploration on the Missouri River. Your journey will be via motor boat and will give you an opportunity to experience the river in ways many people don't get to. You will have the opportunity to view wildlife and learn how the river has changed over time. Space is limited so make your reservations now.

## **Visitor Use Survey Begins at Discovery Center**

**O**ur mission at the Discovery Center is to introduce Missourians to fish, forest and wildlife resources and encourage a deeper connection to nature. This is your chance to tell us how we are doing and what you would like to see in the future. Our staff and volunteers will be conducting Public Use Survey's from July 2013-June 2014 to determine the effectiveness of our interpretive programs, exhibits, and services. We will use this information to better understand why you visit and what type of services you are most interested in. In short, this survey lets us know how we can better serve you.

If you see our staff at the front entrance, please take a couple minutes to complete the survey. Your input is important and will help guide our work into the next generation.



## **Monarch Mania!**

**Make plans to join the fun on Sat. Sept. 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for a day devoted to the monarch butterfly.**

**Discover how to provide good habitat, learn about their migration and much more.**

**Look for more information in the next newsletter.**

## **nature & art**

### **Creepy but Cool photo exhibit opening reception**

**M**issouri is home to many plants and animals that are creepy, which is why they are also fascinating. The Osage Trail Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists took their cameras to the forests, fields and backyards of Missouri to showcase the unloved, unwanted and under appreciated plants and animals. The Creepy but Cool photo exhibit will be on display at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center through October. You can meet the photographers and learn more about the photos at the opening reception for the exhibit 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at the Discovery Center.

## **Sustainability Fair offers tips for helping our environment**

**E**verything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, where we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability is not just the buzz word of the day, it is important to making sure that we have and will continue to have the water, materials and resources to protect human health and our environment.

Living in ways that help maintain a natural balance is not hard and activities like worm composting can be fun. Some positive choices are even beautiful such as planting native flowers instead of exotic imports that require a lot of water. Living in a sustainable fashion does not require a person to give up all of our modern conveniences, but making the right choices about those conveniences can help nature.

The Discovery Center will host a Sustainability Fair 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3. Experts in green living will provide tips for incorporating sustainable choices at home. We will explore options for composting, maintaining our landscape and gardens as well as reducing our carbon footprint through the use of electric cars. There will be experts speaking on water and soil conservation providing insightful information. Games and hands-on activities will make it fun and interactive for kids and families.

## **HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

**Discovery Center, Parma Woods and Lake City Shooting Ranges will be closed July 4.**





1st place • Richard Dec, Blue Springs



### Burr Oak Woods Photography Contest Winners

Thanks to all who submitted photographs for the public photo contest we displayed in March in the nature center. All photos were taken on the Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area and it was great to see how artfully nature was captured by some excellent photographers. We appreciate all entries. Through a public vote, the following were selected as photo contest winners.

- ▲ 3rd place • Laura Bouvard, Oak Grove
- ◀ 2nd place • Dale Edson, Independence



## Missouri River...

*continued from front page*

productive farming land in the world.

You can explore the river much like our ancestors. For a listing of public access sites in the metro area, go to <http://fishing.mdc.mo.gov/reports/missouri-river-kansas-city-area>. As you paddle, take time to enjoy watching great blue herons take flight, listen for belted kingfishers rattling their warning cry, and watch the sunset breathe new colors into the towering bluffs.

So, am I afraid of the river under-currents and the whirlpools? Not for a minute, I hold a healthy respect the river's sheer power, but let me share a secret. The Missouri River is like canoeing on a slow moving lake. The beauty of the river is both timeless and majestic. It tells a story that you will not want to miss. Could that be a crow I hear?

— Lisa Lacombe  
Burr Oak Woods manager

### Missouri River by Canoe Workshop at Burr Oak Woods

*Registration required (Adults only)* Become acquainted with the Mighty Missouri River on a more personal level in this two part workshop. Explore the river by canoe as your ancestors did. Experience the solitude, wildlife and adventure that so intrigued Lewis and Clark on their Voyage of Discovery.

#### Part 1: August 27

(6:00 – 8:00 p.m.) Learn and practice canoe techniques that will help you to navigate any river in our state including the Mighty Missouri! Participants must attend this session to participate in the Missouri River Float Trip on Sept. 15. Details regarding the float trip will be provided during this session.

#### Part 2: September 15

(10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Join us for a float on the Mighty Missouri River. See September newsletter for more information.

## Welcome to the hummers of summer

**R**uby-throated hummingbirds are among the most fascinating birds that flit and fly throughout Missouri. They eat nectar, insects and spiders. But, they are continuously hours away from starving to death and able to store just enough energy to survive overnight. To conserve energy, hummingbirds have the ability to go into a hibernation-like state (torpor) where their metabolic rate is slowed to one-fifteenth of its normal rate. When the nights get colder, their body temperature can drop significantly and slow down their heart and breathing rate. As the day heats back up, the hummingbird's body temperature will come back up and they resume their normal activity.

These fascinating fliers are fun and easy to attract to your gardens. One way is to plant flowers that attract them such as cardinal flower, trumpet vine, columbine, blazingstar, wild bergamot, coral honeysuckle and red buckeye. You can fill a feeder with a nectar solution made of four parts water to one part sugar, no need to add coloring since the feeders are red. Be sure to clean the feeder well on a regular basis and change the nectar weekly or more often if it becomes cloudy or if temperatures are high. Hummingbird feeding is most successful in late summer. September is typically the most satisfying month to feed hummingbirds, by October 10 the ruby throats are usually gone.

Regardless of whether these little migrants are seen at a feeder or a flower, their flight, color and ability to survive in a world where they are always on the edge of disaster makes them fascinating to us all. Join us from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, at Discovery Center when we will explore the world of these fascinating fliers.

— Rebekah Foote, Education Specialist